

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Merwin Trout Hatchery-existing facility
New surface water right**

2. Name of applicant: **PacifiCorp**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Claudia Conder
1407 W. North Temple #110
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
801-220-2252**

4. Date checklist prepared: **September 20, 2007**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Ecology, Water Resources Department**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Water Right Certificate S2-28311, with a priority date of August 5, 1991, was issued to PacifiCorp on May 12, 2000 for an instantaneous diversion of 11 cfs and with a 3,692 acre-feet limit (non consumptive) for fish propagation at the Merwin Trout Hatchery. WDFW has informed PacifiCorp of the need to increase the annual maximum withdrawal volume to provide for changes in hatchery operations and fish health requirements. On the advice of DOE staff, PacifiCorp is now applying for a new, permanent**

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surface water right that will allow for an instantaneous diversion of up to 11 cfs without an annual maximum volume limitation.

The Merwin Trout Hatchery was constructed by PacifiCorp pursuant to a federal hydropower license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to mitigate for losses of resident and anadromous trout resulting from construction and operation of the Merwin Hydropower Project. Hatchery operation is required as a condition of the federal project license. WDFW operates the hatchery under agreements with PacifiCorp. Continued operation of this hatchery is critical to supporting salmon conservation objectives and recreational opportunities in the Lewis River Basin.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

no

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

n/a

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

no

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

n/a

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

As noted, this is an existing fish hatchery facility. The only change is to the continuous flow of 11 cfs for hatchery operations.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Merwin Trout Hatchery is located in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 33, T. 6 N., R. 2 E., W.M. Driving directions: From the South: From I-5 Northbound take the Woodland/Cougar Exit 21 (WA-503). Turn right and follow WA-503 (Lewis River Road) east for approximately 10 miles. Turn right onto Merwin Village Road. Turn right onto Merwin Hatchery Court. Arrive at Merwin Fish Hatchery.

From the North: From I-5 Southbound take the Dike Access Road Exit 22. Turn left on Dike Access Road. Turn right onto Old Pacific Hwy. Turn left onto WA-503 (Lewis River Road). Follow for approximately 10 miles. Turn right onto Merwin Village Road.

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth



a. General description of the site (circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

n/a – project involves no construction or ground disturbance; just a water right.

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c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The majority of the site is paved. There will be no soil disturbance as part of this project.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

n/a – there will be no filling or grading associated with this project

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

n/a - there will be no physical modifications to the site as part of this project

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

n/a - there will be no earth moving or physical modifications to the site as part of this project

a. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

n/a – there is no new construction or vehicle/equipment use associated with this project

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

n/a

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3. **Water**



a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes-Lake Merwin & North Fork of the Lewis River

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

n/a – there will be no filling or dredging in surface waters or wetlands associated with this project.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Water is withdrawn from Lake Merwin immediately above Merwin dam for use in the Merwin Trout Hatchery, and is returned to the Lewis River immediately downstream, at the base of Merwin dam. There is no bypass reach in the system. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife classifies the water use as non-consumptive (WDFW 2007), consistent with Ecology's policies (Water Resources Program Policy 1020, Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Uses). Water is diverted from Lake Merwin with 2-75HP pumps and delivered to the Merwin Fish Hatchery by means of a buried pipe for a distance of approximately 2300 Feet. A portion (up to 3,000 gpm) of water entering the Merwin facility is treated with ozone and passed through the adult holding area and incubation building. The remaining (untreated) water is delivered to intermediate raceways and holding ponds. All water after passing through the hatchery is directed to two concrete effluent settling ponds. Each effluent pond is equipped with a six foot tall section of six foot diameter reinforced concrete pipe (RCP). Water fills up each effluent pond around this RCP until the water level reaches the top of the RCP where it overflows down inside of the RCP. Effluent water from both ponds travels down a 24-inch, concrete lined buried pipe to the base of Merwin dam. Effluent water is discharged into the Merwin fish trap to provide attraction water to the trap. Merwin trap water discharges into the tailwaters at the base of Merwin dam.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

n/a – there is no construction of physical modifications to the hatchery or any ancillary facilities as part of this project

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:



- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

n/a

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c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

All water that is diverted from Merwin Lake for the fish hatchery and then subsequently discharged back into the Lewis River is contained in piping, or hatchery pond facilities, so there is no runoff associated with this project.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Yes – the Merwin Trout Hatchery discharges waste water to the North Fork of the Lewis River (WA-27-2040) under General Upland Fin-fish hatching and Rearing National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Waste Discharge Permit No. WAG13-1052. The discharge location is 45.9548 N, 122.5623 W.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Hatchery waste water will be discharged to the North Fork of the Lewis River under NPDES Waste Discharge Permit No. WAG130-1052. This project will not change or increase waste water discharges to ground or runoff.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- _____x deciduous tree: **alder, maple**, aspen, other
_____x evergreen tree: **fir, cedar**, pine, other
_____x **shrubs**
_____x **grass**
_____ pasture
_____ crop or grain
_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
_____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None



- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

There will be no vegetation removal or landscaping associated with this project.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The North Fork of the Lewis River supports populations of Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River steelhead, Columbia River chum, bull trout and Lower Columbia River coho salmon

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- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Anadromous salmonids are collected (by trap) at base of Merwin dam for artificial propagation. No fish passage facilities exist..

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Electricity for existing water pump operation

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

No

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?

If so, describe.

No



1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

n/a

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

n/a

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None – project does not require any onsite work so noise impacts are not an issue.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

n/a – no additional noise sources will be added as part of this project.

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3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

n/a

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Site is currently a trout hatchery- use is not changing

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Existing fish hatchery: fish rearing ponds, raceways, administrative buildings, employee housing, etc.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

unknown

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

unknown

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

unknown

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

unknown

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Approximately 4 full time employees currently work and live at the hatchery and this project will not change those numbers.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

n/a

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l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

n/a

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

n/a – no structures will be built as part of this project.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

n/a

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

n/a

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

n/a

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None

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12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Boating and fishing in Merwin Lake and the North Fork of the Lewis River

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Approval of an increased water right for Merwin Trout Hatchery will allow for the production of more fish for anglers on the Lewis River.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

The Merwin dam and associated powerhouse and structures ("Ariel Dam historic district") are eligible for listing on the National Historic Register

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Merwin dam, water conveyance systems, control building and powerhouse.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None – there will be no physical changes to any historic project features as part of this project.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

WA-503; Merwin Village Road; Merwin Hatchery Court.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No



c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

n/a

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

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e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The project does now and will use water. The existing water right is insufficient to meet the needs of the hatchery. A new water right filing has been made to provide a continuous flow of water through the hatchery facility.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak

No additional vehicle trips will be generated by this project

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

n/a

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: **electricity**, natural gas, **water**, **refuse service**, **ice**, **telephone**, sanitary sewer, **septic system**, other.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Claudia Conde for PACIFICORP

Date Submitted: SEPT 21, 2007



D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:



5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

